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2 the connection failure is detected by the optical  
3 cross-connect switch in the working link from the client to  
4 the optical cross-connect switch, and the optical cross-  
5 connect switch signals the connection failure to the client  
6 by

7 transmitting an optical signal having a pattern over  
8 the working link from the optical cross-connect switch to  
9 the client without the connection failure, the pattern  
10 indicating the connection failure in the working link from  
11 the client to the optical cross-connect switch.

1 26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein,  
2 the signaling channel is an in-band signaling channel.

1 27. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein,  
2 the connection failure is detected by the client in  
3 the working link from the optical cross-connect switch to  
4 the client, and the client signals the connection failure  
5 to the optical cross-connect switch by  
6 disabling optical signal propagation from the client  
7 to the optical cross-connect switch over the working link  
8 from the client to the optical cross-connect switch without  
9 the connection failure of the pair of working links with  
10 the connection failure.